

Message Text

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SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
LOAN (T-024)

REF: STATE 032732

1. MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (MAP) OFFICIALS REPORT GOOD PROGRESS ON PREPARATION UNDP/IBRD SPONSORED AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION STUDY, INCLUDING PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR PROPOSED IBRD SECTOR LOAN PLANNED FOR THIRD QUARTER 1976. FIRST DRAFT OF STUDY DUE MARCH 31 WITH FINAL REPORT DUE MAY 31. HOWEVER, MAP OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED TO MISSION THAT ON BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS NOW UNDERWAY BETWEEN CONSULTANT (HUNTING GROUP), IBRD TECHNICAL ADVISORS, AND MAP STAFF, AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED IN PRINCIPLE ON LOAN PROJECT GOALS, SPECIFIC PURPOSES, STRATEGY AND KEY ELEMENTS PROJECT DESIGN. MINISTER HAS PARTICIPATED IN THESE CONSULTATIONS AND HAS ANNOUNCED PUBLICALLY THAT DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM IS IN FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION FOR WHICH IBRD LOAN IS BEING NEGOTIATED. AGREEMENTS REACHED SO FAR ARE FULLY ADEQUATE TO GUIDE IATA STAFF IN PREPARATION OF T-024 IMPLEMENTATION PLANS TO MEET CPS WHICH ENSURE CONGRUENCE AND CONSISTENCY BETWEEN AID AND PROPOSED IBRD LOAN. ACCORDINGLY, SUBMISSION TO USAID OF IMPLEMENTATION PLANS WILL NOT AWAIT COMPLETION OF IBRD LOAN STUDIES.

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2. MISSION HAS RECIEVED IATA DRAFT OF IMPLEMENTATON PLANS FOR SUBJECT LOAN WHICH CONTAINS CERTAIN ADJUSTMENTS IN PROJECT DETAIL, WHICH DO NOT CHANGE PROJECT GOAL, PURPOSES, STRATEGY OR DESIGN AS ORIGINALLY AUTHORIZED. ADJUSTMENTS, MOSTLY TECHNICAL IN NATURE RELATE TO A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEVOTED TO LIVESTOCK SECTOR, AS WELL AS A MORE REFINED PROGRAMMINGOF ASSISTANCE TO CROP SECTOR GEARED TO EXPORT CROP AND ZONAL PRIORITIES OF DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMS TO BE SUPPORTED BY IBRD LOAN. CORRESPONDING ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN OTHER PROJECT ELEMENTS INCLUDING NUMBER AND LOCATION OF UEDPS, TECHNICAL ADVISORS, PARTICIPANT TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT TO REFLECT THE REDUCED EMPHASIS ON LIVESTOCK. OTHER ADJUSTMENTS RELATE TO UPDATING COST DATA FOR EQUIPMENT ELEMENTS OF PROJECT.

3. WHILE CONSIDERABLE WORK REMAINS FOR IATA IN MEETING INITIAL CPS BY APRIL 2 TERMINAL DATE, WE CURRENTLY EXPECT THESE TO BE MET ON SCHEDULE.

4. DRAFT IATA IMPLEMENTATION PLAN INDICATES POSSIBILITY OF A SLIGHT REDUCTION N AID LOAN AMOUNT. HOWEVER, UNTIL OUR REVIEW OF UPDATED COST DATA IS COMPLETE, WE HAVE NO BASIS FOR PROPOSING DEOBLIGAION OF LOAN FUNDS. GOU COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTION REMAINS UNCHANGED. SIRACUSA

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